

- 1 **1.** An apparatus comprising:
2 a plurality of customer subscriber lines;
3 a metallic test bus that can be electrically connected to any of said plurality of customer
4 subscriber lines;
5 drop test logic for testing at least one electrical characteristic of any of said plurality of
6 customer subscriber lines via said metallic test bus; and
7 transmission equipment for providing telecommunications service to any of said plurality of
8 customer subscriber lines via said metallic test bus.
- 1 **2.** The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a concentrator for multiplexing said plurality
2 of customer subscriber lines into a trunk.
- 1 **3.** The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a switch for switching calls between said
2 plurality of customer subscriber lines.
- 1 **4.** The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said transmission equipment comprises a wireless
2 terminal.
- 1 **5.** The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said transmission equipment comprises a customer
2 subscriber line.
- 1 **6.** The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said plurality of customer subscriber lines are prioritized
2 for access to said transmission equipment.
- 1 **7.** A method comprising:
2 providing a plurality of customer subscriber lines;
3 providing a metallic test bus;
4 testing at least one electrical characteristic of any of said plurality of customer subscriber lines
5 via said metallic test bus; and
6 providing telecommunications service to any of said plurality of customer subscriber lines via
7 said metallic test bus.
- 1 **8.** The method of claim 7 further comprising multiplexing said plurality of customer
2 subscriber lines into a trunk.
- 1 **9.** The method of claim 7 further comprising switching calls between said plurality of
2 customer subscriber lines.

1 **10.** The method of claim 7 further comprising prioritizing said plurality of customer
2 subscriber lines for access to telecommunications service via said metallic test bus.

1 **11.** An apparatus comprising:
2 a plurality of customer subscriber lines;
3 an optical test bus that can be optically connected to any of said plurality of customer
4 subscriber lines;
5 drop test logic for testing at least one optical characteristic of any of said plurality of customer
6 subscriber lines via said optical test bus; and
7 transmission equipment for providing telecommunications service to any of said plurality of
8 customer subscriber lines via said optical test bus.

1 **12.** The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a concentrator for multiplexing said
2 plurality of customer subscriber lines into a trunk.

1 **13.** The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a switch for switching calls between said
2 plurality of customer subscriber lines.

1 **14.** The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said transmission equipment comprises a wireless
2 terminal.

1 **15.** The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said transmission equipment comprises a customer
2 subscriber line.

1 **16.** The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said plurality of customer subscriber lines are
2 prioritized for access to said transmission equipment.

1 **17.** A method comprising:
2 providing a plurality of customer subscriber lines;
3 providing an optical test bus;
4 testing at least one optical characteristic of any of said plurality of customer subscriber lines
5 via said optical test bus; and
6 providing telecommunications service to any of said plurality of customer subscriber lines via
7 said optical test bus.

1 **18.** The method of claim 17 further comprising multiplexing said plurality of customer
2 subscriber lines into a trunk.

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1 **19.** The method of claim 17 further comprising switching calls between said plurality of
2 customer subscriber lines.

1 **20.** The method of claim 17 further comprising prioritizing said plurality of customer
2 subscriber lines for access to telecommunications service via said optical test bus.